

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the April 14, 2008 Office Action. In the Office Action, claims 18-28 stand rejected. Claim 23 has been amended. Support for the amendment can be found in the originally-filed drawings, for example, in Figs. 1A-1C.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Office Action asserts that “the release means” and “the second mould part” in claim 23 lack antecedent basis. Claim 24 is rejected for depending from claim 23.

Claim 23 has been amended as indicated above. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 23 and 24 are now in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and request the withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

Claims 18-22, 25, and 27-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by International Publication No. WO 01/17012 to Peters et al. In view of the following comments, reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The Peters reference fails to teach or suggest a device for encapsulating with encapsulating material an electronic component fixed on a carrier as defined by independent claim 18. In particular, the Peters reference fails to disclose at least one projecting edge forming a stationary assembly with one of the mould parts. The Peters reference states that “between upper mould part 2 and lower mould part 3 is a holder member 10” (see page 4, line 26) and that the holder member (10) shown in Fig. 1 “is completely clear of lower mould part 3, but in practice it will be moved less far upward so that it still remains in contact with lower mould part 3” (see page 4, lines 27-30). Thus, the holder member (10) and the mould parts (2, 3) are different elements that are moveable relative to each other. The holder member (17) shown in Fig. 4 of the Peters reference only differs from the device shown in Fig. 1 of the Peters reference in that a sleeve (16) is rigidly linked with the holder member (17) such that the sleeve (16) moves with the holder member (17) (see page 5, lines 23-26).

Accordingly, the device of the Peters reference discloses a holder member (10) that is moveable relative to the mould parts and fails to meet the limitation of claim 18 requiring the projecting edge to form a stationary assembly with one of the mould parts.

The Peters reference also fails to teach or suggest a method for encapsulating with encapsulating material an electronic component fixed on a carrier as defined by independent claim 25. In particular, for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 18, the Peters reference fails to disclose where a support part is moved in a first mould part toward a projecting edge that is kept stationary.

Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, the Peters reference fails to teach or suggest the device as defined by independent claims 18 and 25. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 19-22 and 27-28 depend from, and add further limitations to, independent claims 18 and 25 and are believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with independent claims 1 and 25.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Peters in view of JP 7-205214 to Yoshihiro. Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Peters in view of JP 7-80895 to Shigeya.

Claims 23, 24 and 26 depend from, and add further limitations to, independent claims 18 and 25 and are believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with independent claims 1 and 25. The Yoshihiro reference and the Shigeya reference fail to overcome the deficiencies of the Peters reference discussed above. Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 23, 24 and 26 is respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/541,715
Paper Dated: July 14, 2008
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of April 14, 2008
Attorney Docket No. 3135-052069

CONCLUSION

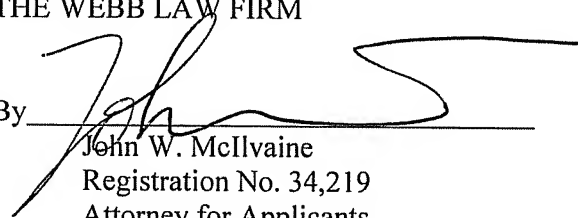
In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 18-28 and allowance of the same.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this information or wish to discuss this matter in further detail to advance prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

THE WEBB LAW FIRM

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John W. McIlvaine', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

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